

10/532435

JC20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 22 APR 2005

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	Gordon Cooper and Todd Teal
Application No.:	Not yet assigned
Filed:	Concurrently herewith
For:	Franking System and Method
Group Art Unit:	Not yet assigned

Mail Stop PCT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Docket No.: P68.2I-11888-US01

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted with this national stage filing under 35 U.S.C. 371 from PCT/CA03/00810, filed May 20, 2003 which claims priority from the following applications: Canadian application no. 2,388,895, filed June 4, 2002; U.S. application no. 10/166572, filed June 10, 2002; and Canadian application no. 2,429,248, filed May 20, 2003.

If an extension of time is required to make this response timely and no separate petition is enclosed, Applicant hereby petitions for an extension of time sufficient to make the response timely. In the event that this response requires the payment of government fees and payment is not enclosed, please charge Deposit Account No. 22-0350.

Before beginning examination and calculating the fees in this application, please amend the above-identified application as indicated below:

In the Specification:

Please add the following new headings after the Title:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a national stage filing under 35 U.S.C. 371 from PCT/CA03/00810, filed May 20, 2003 which claims priority from the following applications: Canadian application no. 2,388,895, filed June 4, 2002; U.S. application no. 10/166572, filed June 10, 2002; and Canadian application no. 2,429,248, filed May 20, 2003.

Please add the following new paragraph after the last text on page 18:

The above disclosure is intended to be illustrative and not exhaustive. This description will suggest many variations and alternatives to one of ordinary skill in this art. All these alternatives and variations are intended to be included within the scope of the claims where the term "comprising" means "including, but not limited to". Those familiar with the art may recognize other equivalents to the specific embodiments described herein which equivalents are also intended to be encompassed by the claims.

Further, the particular features presented in the dependent claims can be combined with each other in other manners within the scope of the invention such that the invention should be recognized as also specifically directed to other embodiments having any other possible combination of the features of the dependent claims. For instance, for purposes of claim publication, any dependent claim which follows should be taken as alternatively written in a multiple dependent form from all prior claims which possess all antecedents referenced in such dependent claim if such multiple dependent format is an accepted format within the jurisdiction (e.g. each claim depending directly from claim 1 should be alternatively taken as depending from all previous claims). In jurisdictions where multiple dependent claim formats are restricted, the following dependent claims should each be also taken as alternatively written in each singly dependent claim format which creates a dependency from a prior antecedent-possessing claim other than the specific claim listed in such dependent claim below.

This completes the description of the preferred and alternate embodiments of the invention. Those skilled in the art may recognize other equivalents to the specific

embodiment described herein which equivalents are intended to be encompassed by the claims attached hereto.